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Message Text

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46
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 INR-07

INRE-00 CIAE-00 NEA-10 EUR-12 /057 W
---------- 014681
O 151430Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1717

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0526

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV GV US AO CU PU
SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT INVOLVING CHARGE AT GUINEAN BANQUET

REF: (A) CONAKRY 0525; (B) STATE 062053

1. FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SET FORTH REFTEL B, CHARGE WENT TO BANQUET HOSTED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. SEKOU TOURE EVENING MARCH 14 IN HONOR OF VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE (SEE REFTEL A). ALSO FOLLOWING SAME GUIDELINES, HE HAD NOT ATTENDED AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONIES FOR PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO, OR FOR FIDEL CASTRO (OF WHOSE ARRIVAL EMBASSY NOT INFORMED).

2. BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR 7;30 P.M., AND ACCORDING TO WRITTEN INVITATION, WAS IN HONOR OF MEETING CHIEFS OF STATE. DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAITED FOR MORE THAN 45 MINUTES IN PARKING AREA OUTSIDE PALAIS DU PEUPLE AFTER 7:30. AT THIS POINT SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, MOROU BALDE, AND DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS (ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR ZITOUNI) TOOK CHARGE ASIDE. ZITOUNI SAID HE WAS SPEAKING TO CHARGE ON BEHALF GUINEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE NOTED THAT USG DID NOT MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GUINEA BISSAU, ANGOLA AND CUBA. CHARGE INTERJECTED THAT USG DOES MAINTAIN EXCELLENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GUINEA BISSAU THROUGH AMBASSADOR FERNANDEZ ACCREDITED TO WASHINGTON. THIS GREATLY SURPRISED BOTH BALDE AND ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR.

3. ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR THEN CONTINUED THAT GOG WISHED AVOID
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ANY DIPLOMATIC INCIDENTS AT BANQUET. AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION CHARGE ASKED WHETHER GOG PREFERRED THAT HE NOT ATTEND BANQUET. GREATLY RELIEVED, BALDE THANKED CHARGE FOR UNDERSTANDING AND ONCE MORE INSISTED ON EXCELLENT US-GUINEAN RELATIONS. CHARGE THEN TOLD BOTH DEAN AND SECRETARY GENERAL THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE THEIR PASSING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CABRAL STATING THE US REPRESENTATIVE NOT PRESENT AT BANQUET IN CABRAL'S HONOR ONLY AT SUGGESTION OF GUINEAN GOVERNMENT. BOTH BALDE AND DEAN PROMISED TO DO THIS. EMBASSY HAS SUBSEQUENTLY SENT NOTE TO GUINEA BISSAU EMBASSY ALONG SAME LINES.

4. PROTOCOL OFFICIAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED AGAIN ON MORNING MARCH 15 TO INVITE CHARGE TO RALLY AT STADIUM AND TO CULTURAL EVENING AT PALAIS DU PEUPLE. CHARGE, WHO HAD BEEN ATTEMTPING REACH BALDE ALL MORNING, TOLD PROTOCOL REPRESENTATIVE (WHO NOT INFORMED ABOUT MARCH 14 INCIDENT) THAT US EMBASSY WOULD NOT SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO EITHER EVENT WITHOUT SPECIFIC PRIOR DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY GENERAL. EMBASSY NOT LIKELY HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY, SINCE GOG OFFICES CLOSED MARCH 15 AND SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIALS TAKING PART IN TALKS IN PROGRESS.

5. CHARGE DISCUSSED INCIDENT WITH FRG CHARGE UHRIG MORNING MARCH 15. UHRIG HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF CHARGE DISCREET DEPARTURE, AND HAD NOTED NO DISCUSSION OF INCIDENT DURING BANQUET.

6. EXPECT THAT AN TMCR CULTURAL EVENING WILL TAKE PLACE MARCH 16. WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT ON WHETHER CHARGE SHOULD ATTEND IF INVITED.
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